

TRAINING CAMP ISSUE

*Bears-Cowboys Preview
Begins On Page 9*



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BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 11, No. 1 August 4, 1986

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A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL

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On The Cover...

RUNNING back Walter Payton signs autographs after a training camp practice. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



British Fans Will Love Bears, Cowboys

If my recent experience in England is any indication, British football fans are going to go crazy when the Bears battle the Cowboys at Wembley Stadium next Sunday at noon Chicago time.

Interest in American football has skyrocketed in England during the past year. Nearly seven million Britons watched the Super Bowl last January, and the game didn't begin until 11 p.m. London time.

IN LATE MAY, I accompanied 65 all-stars from the Illinois-based Metropolitan Football League on a one-week journey to the United Kingdom. The MFL all-stars played two games against British "American" football teams, and also put on some clinics. The response to the all-stars appearances was tremendous.

There are currently two different leagues of American-style football teams playing in England today. While all of the teams in these leagues still have a long way to go as far as the fundamentals of the game are concerned, enthusiasm is not lacking. The MFL all-stars destroyed both teams they played, but the British players were still shouting and jumping up and down after each game.

One of the big problems players on these British teams have is they didn't grow up with the game. They never played it in high school or in college. These leagues just started a couple of years ago and basically the players are just trying to imitate what they have seen NFL players do.

IT'S AMAZING HOW interested the fans of England are in American football. After one of our games, a guy ran

across the field and asked me if I could get him two good tickets for the Bears-Cowboys game. I thought I was back in Chicago. Another time, a little girl no older than eight started asking me 'Do you know Payton? Do you know McMahon? Do you know Singletary?' She knew every player on the team.

Besides the booming interest in American football, what makes next Sunday's game even better is it features two of the best teams in the NFL. It's the defending champs against a perennial Super Bowl contender.

Even though it's just the pre-season opener, I'm sure both of these teams are going to put their best efforts forward because of the impact of this game. Starters on both sides will probably play for at least a quarter. The Bears are going to want to prove they are still the champs, while the Cowboys are going to be trying to erase memories of the 44-0 disaster at Texas Stadium last year.

All indications are the Bears aren't resting on their laurels. The intensity has been strong during the first two weeks of workouts at Platteville. Last Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage showed there are a lot of players who want to crack the lineup this year. Second-round draft choice Vestee Jackson looked sharp as he picked off an errant pass. Running back Thomas Sanders also played impressively.

Even though the Bears are the defending champs, there are still going to be some roster changes this year due to the intense competition. All of these players are going to be displaying their best beginning Sunday at London.



DEFENSIVE END TYRONE Keys (right) sacks Dallas quarterback Gary Hogeboom during last season's Bears-Cowboys game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Dent Signs New Pact; Hampton Sidelined

By BEAR REPORT Staff

PLATTEVILLE, WI — After over a year of heated words and hurt feelings, DE Richard Dent has signed a new contract with the Bears. Last weekend, he agreed to a four-year contract, worth \$2.7 million.

"I feel like a new man," Dent said. "I think I should play better now that something like that isn't bothering me. That made more pressure."

IF DENT PLAYS any better this year than he has during the last two seasons, they may have to reserve a wing for him at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. He has led the NFC in sacks the past two seasons, and was the MVP of the Super Bowl last January.

Also signing new contracts recently were veterans Al Harris, Tim Wrightman, Gary Fencik and Matt Suhey, and all of the club's 1986 draft choices except first-round pick Neal Anderson. Very few first-round picks have signed in the league thus far, so it is no surprise Anderson still hasn't come to an agreement with the Bears. General manager Jerry Vainisi hopes to resume talks with Anderson's agent, Steve Rappenecker, when Rappenecker returns from a vacation later this week.

Vainisi is also trying to sign veteran defensive back Todd Bell. The former all Pro missed the entire 1985 season due to a contract dispute. Two weeks ago, Vainisi thought he was making progress when he met with Bell and his father. But the situation took a turn for the worse when the Bells decided to turn the matter over to Bell's long-time agent, Howard Slusher. Apparently, Slusher rejected the Bears' latest offer.

LIKE MOST TRAINING camps, the Bears have had their share of injured players during the first two weeks of workouts at Platteville.

Topping the list of the wounded is defensive end Dan Hampton. He is expected to be out of action for two to four weeks due to a fractured vertebra just below his neck. Hampton returned to Lake Forest Hospital last week where he received a spinal cortisone injection.

"I'll really have to fight for the next four weeks," said Hampton after he returns to training camp. "Anytime you have something like this it worries you a little. I was afraid it was a slipped disc." Rumors circulating around Platteville had Hampton's injury as a broken neck.

ANOTHER PLAYER WITH a "scary" injury is free agent running back Calvin Murray. The former Ohio State star lost the feeling in both legs after receiving heavy contact during a full-speed goal line drill last week. The feeling in his right leg returned immediately, and he eventually regained the feeling in his left leg.

"His reflexes are good. Every once in awhile he gets a sensation in his leg, but they go away. He's doing much better," said trainer Fred Caito.

Like Hampton, Murray was transferred to Lake Forest Hospital where he is under the care of Dr. Ron Pawl, a neurologist.

CAITO SAID PAWL speculates Murray may have sustained a spinal cord concussion.

Reserve guard Stefen Humphries, a three-year veteran, sustained a broken toe. He will be out for at least four weeks. Quarterback Jim McMahon has also missed some



FREE AGENT DEFENSIVE tackle Mark Baker (right) battles with veteran lineman Tom Andrews. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

practice time due to a strained hip muscle. He is expected to start vs. the Cowboys.

Rookie tackle Paul Blair, the club's fourth-round draft choice out of Oklahoma St., underwent arthroscopic knee surgery last week to repair cartilage damage sustained during the first week of camp. He will be out for at least four more weeks.

"WE WILL MISS him," said head coach Mike Ditka. "He looked good and we really need him."

There are always a few players who decide they don't have a chance to make it with a club. Four rookies will miss a trip to London because they decided to leave camp last week. They are guard Lavelle Moore (Grambling), and running backs Gary Hashaway (SMU), Jeff McKinney (Western Illinois) and Vernon Williams (Rutgers).

Ditka has been happy with what he has seen during the first two weeks of camp.

"I HAVEN'T SEEN any complacency at all," he said. "I would compare this camp very favorably with last year's.

Our work habits are excellent, better than last year. I don't see any problems at all."

Ditka has been impressed with many of the rookies, most notably second-round pick Vestee Jackson and third-round choice David Williams. Jackson has only been in camp a few days since he didn't sign his contract until the middle of last week.

"You don't have to see a whole lot of Vestee to know he's a football player. He's smooth. If he keeps doing what he's doing, he's going to play a lot for us," Ditka said.

On Williams, the coach said: "Dave didn't start out as well as he's doing now. He's improving every day. He's a good target. He catches the ball well."

The newest member of the Bears is free agent guard Rick Schulte, a graduate of suburban Maine West High School. Schulte was signed last week when Moore left camp and Humphries' injury was diagnosed as a broken toe.

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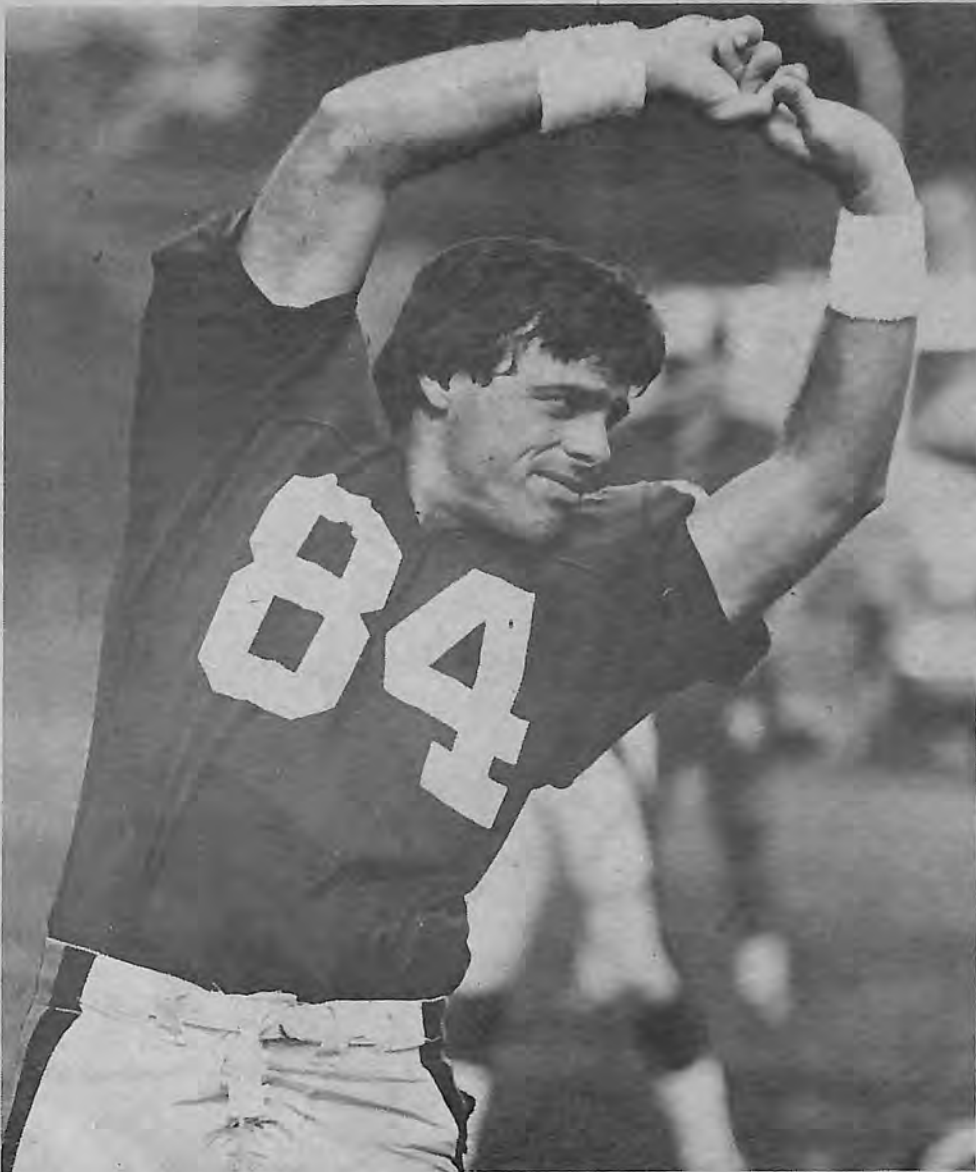
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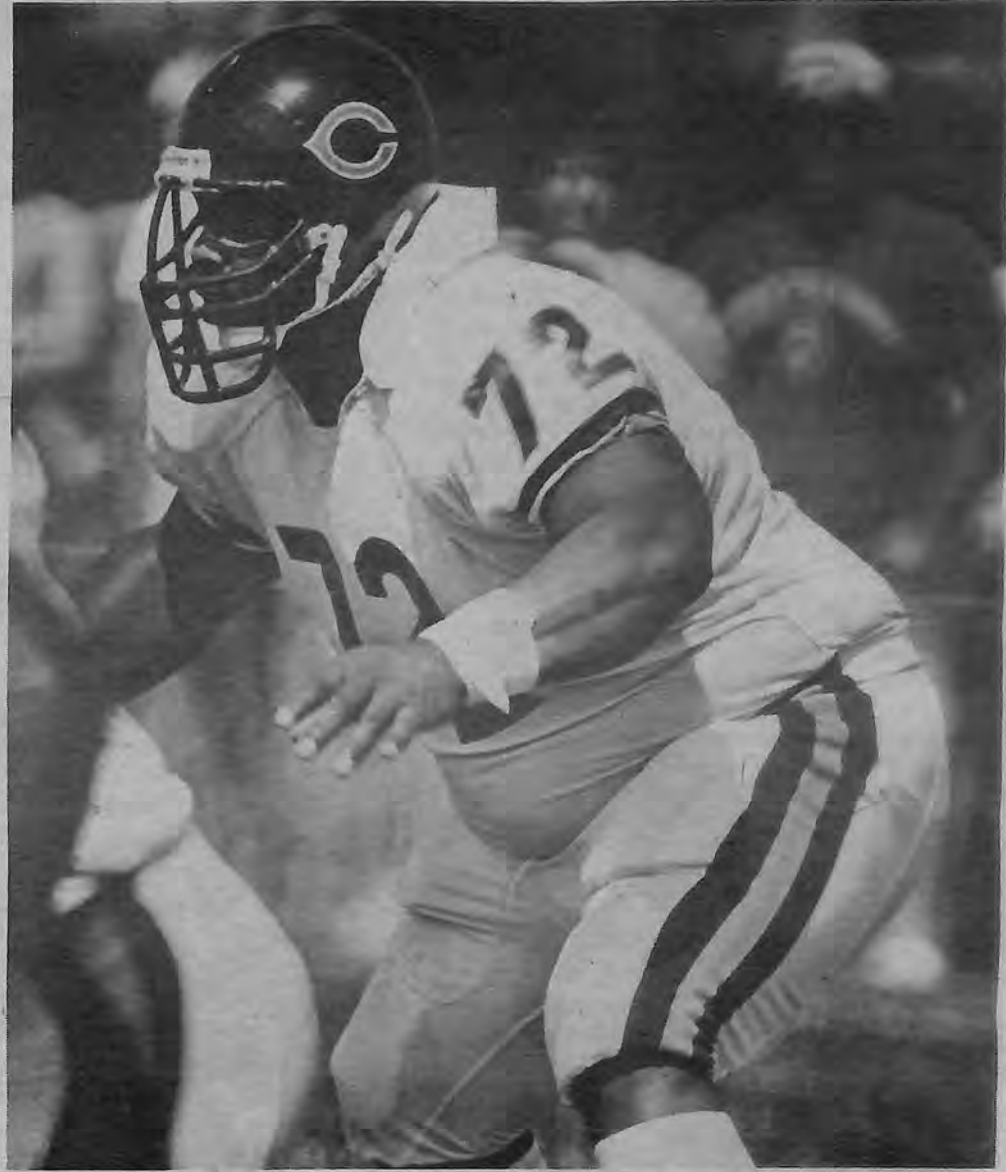
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WIDE RECEIVER BRIAN Baschnagel is trying to land a spot on the roster after missing the entire '85 campaign due to a knee injury. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



WILLIAM PERRY PLAYED many positions in his rookie season, and now is being used as a linebacker in certain formations. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Camp Is Anything But Dull

PLATTEVILLE, WI — Going to London couldn't be any more exciting than going to Platteville. Getting there was half the fun. Who would come in next? And when? And how?

Dennis Gentry drove Walter Payton's motor home. Walter Payton landed by helicopter. Mike Richardson flew to O'Hare thinking he was a day early and found out Thursday wasn't Tuesday, so he arrived by car at 5:30 a.m. Al Harris drove Mike Singletary's jeep.

"HE DOESN'T KNOW it yet," said Harris.

Matt Suhey drove Dennis Gentry's car.



By
Don
Pierson

They all drove Mike Ditka slightly mad, as in angry. **GARY FENCIK WAS** considering arriving by bicycle. "Maybe Richard Dent will drop out of the sky," said general manager Jerry Vainisi.

Or maybe Todd Bell would emerge from underground.

DITKA RAVED ABOUT the 80 who arrived on time and ranted about the few who didn't. The players pointed out that only a few of them were required to report before July 19.

"They say Mike Richardson was late. Really, he was early," said one player.

Nevertheless, Ditka demoted Richardson and Suhey from starting jobs. Someone called the Players Association to file a grievance against Ditka's strongarm tactics,

calling them illegal under the collective bargaining agreement.

"I'M FLATTERED," snapped Ditka. "They will never run the NFL and they will never run the Bears. They have enough problems running their own organization."

The Bears do not go placidly amid the haste.

A step back from the turmoil surrounding the few late arrivals, however, reveals a solid picture.

"I SYMPATHIZE WITH the ones who are here," said Ditka.

Deep down, he also had to be impressed despite his pronouncement that his "feelings were hurt" by the few stragglers.

Ditka had made a deal with the players during the May mini-camp that if they came to Platteville earlier than required, the practices in London would be curtailed.

IT WAS THE kind of deal that players couldn't refuse, of course. They felt like "volunteers" in the Army. But the vast majority of them came and the vast majority didn't complain.

"We need the work," said Singletary.

"I think it's a phenomenal turnout," said Dan Hampton. "It shows great maturity and leadership among the older players, because usually the older players don't come in. You can't go wrong with that attitude."

BETWEEN DITKA'S MORE quotable lines ("Walter who?"), he was also heard to say: "They're working hard. That's what I like."

The most intriguing arrival of the first week was Harris. After 18 months away from football, he got lost only once along the circuitous route from Chicago to Platteville.

He came, he said, because the Bears convinced him they wanted him. And he revealed that a lot of the convincing was done by Vince Tobin.

"**THE FIRST COACH** to call me after the Super Bowl was Vince Tobin," said Harris. "I never even met Vince Tobin."

At that point, Harris still wanted to follow Buddy Ryan to Philadelphia. But Tobin had broken some ice and a subsequent meeting with Ditka continued the thaw.

When a Philadelphia deal fell through, Vainisi invited Harris and his father and his agent to Lake Forest for a

Continued Next Page



VETERAN DEFENDERS GARY Fencik (45) and Mike Singletary await the next play. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Camp Not Dull

Continued From Page 5

summit meeting.

AFTER THAT, IT seemed to be a matter of time before Harris rejoined his teammates. But there was one last scare.

"They sent their contract offer to the wrong address and I didn't get it until a week before training camp," said Harris.

Harris anticipated the questions that accompanied his return. Many of them he had already asked himself a 1,000 times. But only a player might understand the answers.

OUTSIDERS MIGHT never empathize with the decisions Harris made last year. To many, he was no more than a greedy athlete who foolishly tossed away a precious year in a temporal profession.

They fail to consider the pride and the will in a man that

makes him a great athlete in the first place. Lose that, and he's not worth anything.

Sure, Al Harris might have done things differently. Wouldn't we all if any of us had even one second chance?

THE BEARS MIGHT have done things differently, too, especially if someone had been injured and the 1985 season wouldn't have ended so magically.

"We both rolled the dice and we won," said Vainisi.

Like any athlete, Al Harris can't look back. It is not in the makeup of an athlete to reflect much on the past. That's why you rarely hear Walter Payton mulling over old yardage. He is constantly looking for the next play, the next game.

"I **THINK THE** greatest test of a champion is to come back from adversity," said Harris. "There is scripture that reads, 'How can you by worrying add one cubit to your stature?' How can I add a Super Bowl by saying, 'Why did I miss a Super Bowl?'"

If either the Bears or Al Harris dwell on the past, they

will have no future. In this regard, they start the 1986 season on equal ground.

"Last year can't get us anything this year but a headache," said Ditka.

THEY KEEP WANTING Al Harris to explain last year when there is nothing to explain. It was something that happened and it is gone. They say it all could have been avoided. Maybe not. Al Harris did what he had to do. If outsiders don't look at it that way, at least Al Harris can look at himself in the mirror. What he sees now is only the future.

"I'm looking forward to being Al Harris, the football player, not Al Harris, the holdout," he said. "Sure, it was natural to have desire to be with a team when it had the success the Bears did. But I'm not trying to think about frustration. I'm thinking about excitement because that's what I feel right now."

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Ditka Will Guide Bears On a New 'Mission'

The 1986 Chicago Bears reported to Platteville, Wisconsin on July 15 under a stormy and cloudy sky. Was it just irony or was it a symbolic start to the season in which many stormy moments may evolve?

The Bears and the weather have something in common... change. In Chicago changes come frequently, especially to the city's professional sports organizations. Look what has happened since the Super Bowl.

THE BULLS FIRED coach Stan Albeck and hired ex-76er Doug Collins. The Cubs took their turn next and fired Jim Frey, choosing Gene Michael as his replacement. Then the axe fell on the White Sox skipper, Tony LaRussa, who was on thin ice from spring training anyway. His successor is Jim Fregosi who has just begun to unpack after a favorable start. If you don't count Sting coach Willy Roy, the Bears' Mike Ditka is already the senior head coach or manager in Chicago as he starts his fifth season at the helm. Yes, things do change in a hurry in the Windy City.

To a man, the Bears credited their Super Bowl win to "having a mission" which started in Platteville last summer. This year the man with a mission must be Mike Ditka. His mission is to convince the Super Bowl champions that repeating as champs is more difficult than winning it the first time.

The reasons why are many. Everybody in the NFL will be gunning for the top dog. The Bears won't sneak up on anybody this season, so they'd better be ready. There's something magical about beating the defending champion in pro football. It's like beating Notre Dame. Everybody loves it except Notre Dame fans.

DITKA'S TASK IS to see to it that the Bears recapture that "mission" attitude quickly in Platteville. He started the process at the Bears' mini-camp when he issued T-shirts with the words "Are You Satisfied" stenciled on the front. That's exactly the point. A satisfied athlete who is content is ripe for a drubbing. Pride in accomplishment is one thing, and it's to be expected, but satisfaction with last year must disappear in Platteville.

Discontent could become a problem. Buddy Ryan is gone as the architect of the Bears' fabulous defense. He was the kind of coach the players cursed under their

breath, then cried when he left. That kind of popularity is difficult to replace but Vince Tobin should be up to it. His job may be more difficult during the week than on Sundays. Ryan's thoroughness and dedication gained the players' respect. Tobin must win that respect early or else.

Players like Jim McMahon, William Perry, Walter Payton and Richard Dent made fortunes in the off-season. They were hot properties. But most of the Bears enjoyed a quiet off-season without the financial rewards of winning media and advertiser attention. Jealousy could rear its ugly



By
Dick
Gonski

head. Ditka must treat them all the same. They're highly paid working stiffs who haven't proven anything in 1986. Forget the commercials and endorsements and concentrate on the guy in front of you.

DITKA WILL BE up to the task. He'll relish it. He was never satisfied as a player, and he'll let the players know that. As a motivator, Ditka is at the top of the list. It was Ditka who preached success to these players when they were losing to inferior talent. It was Ditka who motivated his coaching staff, encouraging wrinkles instead of conservative football. He cut the veteran Bob Thomas and replaced him with rookie Kevin Butler, who didn't miss an extra point and converted 31 of 38 field goal attempts. Now the Bears have a reliable kicker for the next decade.

In sports, much like in business, when problems develop, you look to the top for the source of the problem. When success occurs, look to the same area. Ditka is a winner and that quality must rub off on the 1986 Bears.

Winners look for a way to beat the other guy while losers search for excuses. The loss of Ryan on the sidelines as well as Leslie Frazier and Dennis McKinnon on the playing field would be solid excuses for losers. Ditka views all of this as a challenge. He loves challenges.

KEEP IN MIND that this is a very young football team made up of impressionable young men. That's why the standard set by veterans like Walter Payton and Dan Hampton is so important. These are players who have worked hard for their success. If they prepare for the season with fire in their eyes, the younger players will understand that far better than a Knute Rockne-type speech.

Those are some of the reasons why the Bears have much going for them as they defend their Super Bowl title. It's a unique group of men led by a non-compromising coach and by seasoned veterans who have known what humiliation feels like.

Yes, there is a chance of rain on the Bears' parade to Pasadena. The storm warnings have been issued. But Ditka is already growling about players who missed the first week of practice. Will the Bears take cover from the storm or take charge? Bet on the latter.

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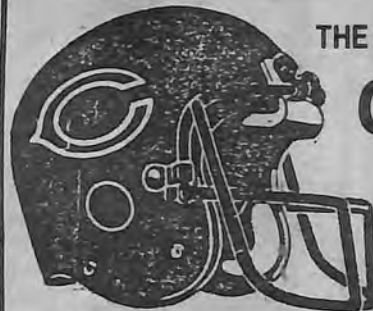
QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON hopes to get through the entire 1986 season without a serious injury. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Many Bears Honored At BBF Banquet

By Wally Gullick
Bear Report Staff

Seeing their heroes in tuxedos instead of helmets and shoulder pads, hearing them speak in articulate tones of emotion and sensitivity, as opposed to the barking out of signals, convinced a charitable gathering of 2,800 fans that the greatest NFL stars of 1985 are also All-Pros at reflecting an image of human kindness.

The players were the draw, the magnet that lured nearly 3,000 fans to pay \$350 per ticket. However, the motive of the players was not to polish their glorified egos, but instead to help replenish the coffers of the Better Boys Foundation of Chicago.

THE 20TH ANNUAL Mackey Awards Banquet, recognized as the Super Bowl of banquets by NFLPA Executive Director Gene Upshaw, is the final stop on the off-season banquet circuit for these NFL greats. For the June 29 affair was staged less than a month from yet another training camp.

Gathering the greatest stars and turning over the emcee chores to the eloquent Frank Gifford is nothing new. This event followed the same format of successful promotional dinners of past years, but with one significant difference in terms of the cast of award winners sitting on the dais.

For this year, the city of Chicago was more than just the host for the 25-year old social agency that churns out nearly half of its \$1.5 million budget through promotional functions. This year the Bears, like no other team, dominated the assembly just as they had their '85 opponents.

GREETERED WITH A standing ovation when he entered the Hyatt's Grand Ballroom, and an encore effort by the patrons when he received his MVP prize, Walter Payton saluted the BBF cause, praised his fellow combatants and offered thanks to his wife Connie by recognizing her as his "guiding light." Gifford then saluted the game's greatest player in his follow-up remarks when he told Payton his wish as a sportscaster was to be able to watch Payton go on and play forever.

While Payton is no stranger to awards/banquets/and recognition, this past Super Bowl championship season produced a windfall of awards for Payton's teammates, who have become recognizable without the aid of a program. Super Bowl MVP winner Richard Dent was present and was thankful to be in the company of the game's greatest stars.

"It's marvelous. It's something really nice, a dinner like this. We all work to be a champion, but I haven't let any of the glory go to my head," smiled Dent as he tirelessly

signed one autograph after another at the cocktail party prior to the dinner.

KICKER KEVIN BUTLER, the NFC's leading scorer, joined two other rookies on the dais, a final curtain call to a fantasy-like first season.

"It's an honor to be here. My point scoring is just a reflection of how our offense did this year, and how our defense set up so many chances for us to score," said Butler.

More humility was expressed from Jim Covert when he accepted his award for Offensive Lineman of the Year. He accepted it on behalf of his teammates on the line, who in unison came together to make the Bears incomparable.

Linebacker of the Year Mike Singletary, greeted by a murmur of barking fans as he reached the podium, thanked the crowd and praised the efforts of the BBF for its ability to help kids and thanked the fans for their support.

EVEN NEW ENGLAND linebacker Andre Tippett, who didn't make a lot of friends in Chicago when he sent Jim McMahon to the turf via a 180-degree head first dive in the Super Bowl, had Bear fans clapping when he thanked the BBF for the chance to visit Chicago under better circumstances.

In a class act, Willie Gault was summoned to the podium to receive the award presented annually in memory of Chicago sportswriter Jack Griffin, and took the opportunity to issue a challenge to his NFL colleagues to become all-out winners in the war against drug and alcohol abuse. His remarks earned him applause and proved to the awards committee he was a deserving winner for such an honor.

Put the game's most celebrated stars together for one night and you succeed in producing the ultimate victory. For through the efforts of these stars and the generosity of the audience, the BBF took center stage as a winner surrounded by a circle of champions.



WIDE RECEIVER WILLIE Gault received the Jack Griffin Award for his service to the Better Boys Foundation. (Bear Report photo by Peter Mitchell)



WALTER PAYTON, THE NFC'S most valuable player, listens to another award winner address the crowd at the annual NFLPA banquet. (Bear Report photo by Peter Mitchell)

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Dallas Cowboys Numerical Roster

| No. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Age | Yr. | College |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 1 | Rafael Septien | K | 5-10 | 179 | 32 | 10 | SW Louisiana |
| 2 | Dan Anderson | P | 6-1 | 215 | 23 | R | NW Missouri |
| 3 | Tom Gray | WR | 6-0 | 178 | 22 | R | West Virginia |
| 4 | Mike Saxon | P | 6-3 | 187 | 24 | 2 | San Diego State |
| 5 | Mark Royals | P | 6-5 | 216 | 23 | R | Appalachian State |
| 7 | Claude Perkins | WR | 5-11 | 179 | 24 | R | Tarkio |
| 8 | Tony Flack | DB | 6-1 | 184 | 21 | R | Georgia |
| 8 | Stan Gelbaugh | QB | 6-3 | 207 | 23 | R | Maryland |
| 8 | Wayne Roby | WR | 6-2 | 190 | 24 | R | Wisconsin |
| 9 | Scott Woolf | QB | 6-1 | 189 | 24 | R | Mount Union |
| 10 | Rich Spangler | K | 6-0 | 205 | 22 | R | Ohio State |
| 10 | Reggie Collier | QB | 6-3 | 207 | 25 | 1 | S. Mississippi |
| 11 | Danny White | QB | 6-3 | 196 | 34 | 11 | Arizona State |
| 13 | Max Zendejas | K | 5-11 | 184 | 22 | R | Arizona |
| 16 | Steve Pelluer | QB | 6-4 | 208 | 24 | 3 | Washington |
| 20 | Darrell Austin | DB | 5-9 | 174 | 23 | R | Texas A&M |
| 20 | Jeff Jones | WR | 6-0 | 181 | 23 | R | Clemson |
| 22 | Victor Scott | DB | 6-0 | 196 | 24 | 3 | Colorado |
| 24 | Everson Walls | CB | 6-1 | 194 | 26 | 6 | Grambling |
| 24 | Tony Dollinger | RB | 5-10 | 188 | 23 | R | Evangel |
| 26 | Michael Downs | S | 6-3 | 204 | 27 | 6 | Rice |
| 27 | Ron Fellows | CB | 6-0 | 180 | 27 | 6 | Missouri |
| 27 | Robert Mimbs | RB | 5-11 | 203 | 21 | R | Kansas |
| 28 | Norm Granger | RB | 5-10 | 220 | 24 | 2 | Iowa |
| 29 | Robert Lavette | RB | 5-11 | 199 | 22 | 2 | Georgia Tech |
| 30 | Calvin Hall | DB | 5-10 | 184 | 22 | R | Boston University |
| 30 | Timmy Newsome | RB | 6-1 | 237 | 28 | 7 | Winston-Salem St. |
| 31 | Carl Miller | RB | 5-10 | 203 | 22 | R | Arkansas |
| 32 | Dennis Thurman | S | 5-11 | 179 | 30 | 9 | Southern Cal |
| 33 | Tony Dorsett | RB | 5-11 | 185 | 32 | 10 | Pittsburgh |
| 34 | Johnny Holloway | CB | 5-11 | 181 | 22 | R | Kansas |
| 34 | Lee Weigel | RB | 5-11 | 208 | 22 | R | Wis.-Eau Claire |
| 35 | Rodney Holland | DB | 5-10 | 184 | 23 | R | Montana State |
| 36 | Vince Albritton | LB | 6-2 | 213 | 24 | 3 | Washington |
| 40 | Bill Bates | S | 6-1 | 199 | 25 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 42 | Darryl Clack | RB | 5-10 | 207 | 22 | R | Arizona State |
| 44 | Cornell Gowdy | CB | 6-0 | 192 | 22 | 1 | Morgan State |
| 45 | Mike Turner | DB | 6-2 | 200 | 21 | R | NE Louisiana |
| 46 | Todd Fowler | FB | 6-3 | 218 | 24 | 2 | Stephen F. Austin |
| 47 | Dextor Clinkscale | S | 5-11 | 195 | 28 | 6 | S. Carolina State |
| 50 | Jeff Rohrer | LB | 6-2 | 230 | 27 | 5 | Yale |
| 54 | Randy White | DT | 6-4 | 272 | 33 | 12 | Maryland |
| 55 | Steve DeOssie | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 23 | 3 | Boston College |
| 56 | Eugene Lockhart | LB | 6-2 | 234 | 25 | 3 | Houston |
| 58 | Mike Hegman | LB | 6-1 | 228 | 33 | 11 | Tennessee State |
| 59 | Jesse Penn | LB | 6-3 | 217 | 23 | 2 | Virginia Tech |
| 60 | Don Smerek | DT | 6-7 | 265 | 28 | 5 | Nevada-Reno |
| 61 | Jim Cooper | T | 6-5 | 274 | 30 | 10 | Temple |
| 62 | George McDuffie | DL | 6-5 | 258 | 23 | R | Findlay |
| 62 | Brian Baldinger | G | 6-4 | 261 | 27 | 4 | Duke |
| 63 | Bob Otto | DE | 6-6 | 251 | 23 | 1 | Idaho State |
| 63 | Glen Titensor | G | 6-4 | 261 | 28 | 6 | Brigham Young |
| 64 | Tom Rafferty | C | 6-3 | 264 | 32 | 11 | Penn State |
| 65 | Kurt Petersen | G | 6-4 | 278 | 29 | 7 | Missouri |
| 66 | Chris Schultz | T | 6-8 | 288 | 26 | 3 | Arizona |
| 67 | Ken Smith | DL | 6-3 | 250 | 25 | R | Brigham Young |
| 67 | Broderick Thompson | T | 6-5 | 280 | 25 | 2 | Kansas |
| 68 | Crawford Ker | G | 6-3 | 293 | 24 | 2 | Florida |
| 70 | Howard Richards | T | 6-6 | 262 | 26 | 6 | Missouri |
| 71 | Mark Tuinei | C | 6-5 | 270 | 26 | 4 | Hawaii |
| 72 | Ed Jones | DE | 6-9 | 287 | 35 | 12 | Tennessee State |
| 73 | Kurt Ploeger | DE | 6-5 | 259 | 23 | 1 | Gustav. Adolphus |
| 73 | Bryan Chester | G | 6-4 | 260 | 23 | R | Texas |
| 75 | Phil Pozderac | T | 6-9 | 282 | 26 | 5 | Notre Dame |
| 76 | Dowe Aughtman | G | 6-2 | 259 | 25 | 2 | Auburn |
| 77 | Jim Jeffcoat | DE | 6-5 | 263 | 25 | 4 | Arizona State |
| 78 | John Dutton | DT | 6-7 | 268 | 35 | 13 | Nebraska |
| 78 | Tim Scannell | OL | 6-4 | 274 | 21 | R | Notre Dame |
| 79 | Joel Patten | G/T | 6-6 | 240 | 28 | 2 | Duke |
| 80 | Tony Hill | WR | 6-2 | 202 | 30 | 10 | Stanford |
| 81 | Karl Powe | WR | 6-2 | 175 | 24 | 2 | Alabama State |
| 82 | Mike Renfro | WR | 6-0 | 189 | 31 | 9 | Texas Christian |
| 83 | Leon Gonzalez | WR | 5-10 | 162 | 22 | 2 | Beth.-Cookman |
| 84 | Doug Cosbie | TE | 6-6 | 245 | 30 | 8 | Santa Clara |
| 85 | Fred Cornwell | TE | 6-6 | 233 | 24 | 3 | Southern Cal |
| 86 | Kenny Duckett | WR | 5-11 | 183 | 26 | 5 | Wake Forest |
| 87 | Gordon Banks | WR | 5-10 | 173 | 28 | 4 | Stanford |
| 88 | Mike Sherrard | WR | 6-2 | 185 | 23 | R | UCLA |
| 89 | Brian Salonen | LB | 6-3 | 226 | 25 | 3 | Montana |
| 90 | Henry Walls | LB | 6-2 | 222 | 22 | R | Clemson |
| 90 | Junior Miller | TE | 6-4 | 240 | 28 | 6 | Nebraska |
| 91 | Keith Williams | LB | 6-3 | 234 | 22 | R | Clemson |
| 91 | Ron Heller | TE | 6-3 | 234 | 22 | R | Oregon State |
| 96 | Charles Bennett | DE | 6-4 | 260 | 23 | 1 | SW Louisiana |
| 96 | Thornton Chandler | TE | 6-5 | 238 | 22 | R | Alabama |
| 99 | Kevin Brooks | DT | 6-6 | 270 | 23 | 2 | Michigan |

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By BEAR REPORT Staff

PLATTEVILLE, WI — Running back Walter Payton has big plans while the Bears are in London, England preparing for their pre-season contest vs. the Cowboys.

"I want to see the Queen," Payton told reporters on Media Day last week. "I've had dinner with the President. I want to see the Queen too."

"I'LL TRY TO arrange that, said a reporter from London's *Today* newspaper.

This week is one of the most unique in the history of NFL training camps, as the Bears prepare to battle the Cowboys at Wembley Stadium next Sunday at 12 Noon CDT (WMAQ — Channel 5). Compared to the normal training camp routine, this week is a breeze for the Bears and Cowboys players. Instead of two-a-day practice sessions, the teams are only spending two hours a day practicing. The rest of the time is spent in press conferences or sight-seeing.

"I really don't mind that we're playing a game over here, but it breaks up the training camp routine a bit too much. It's more like a vacation," said head coach Mike Ditka.

A COUPLE OF months ago, both teams expressed some concern about playing a game in London due to world-wide terrorism. Most of the players eventually warmed to the idea of going overseas, but William Perry still isn't too crazy about the game.

"Why we couldn't play the Cowboys in Soldier Field or Texas Stadium, I don't know," the Frigate said. "I'm not worried about going. Just that long ride over there just to play one game. A pre-season game."

Ditka says British football fans will be fascinated as they view the contest. Over 80,000 fans are expected to attend the game in infamous Wembley Stadium. Forty thousand of those fans will be standing! Ditka says they will see something much different than the soccer matches which are usually played in this grand arena.

"I THINK WHEN they see our guys hit, they'll be impressed," Ditka said. "They won't call it soccer, that's for sure. They might call it boxing."

Ditka is approaching the game a little bit differently than a usual pre-season opener. He plans to play all of his starters for at least a quarter, including QB Jim McMahon and Payton. Last year, Sweetness said he didn't want to play in the pre-season opener because of a superstition. A few years back, he was injured in a pre-season opener.

"I'm not going to answer that," Payton told reporters when asked if he would play in the Cowboys game. "He's (Ditka) the boss. I have to do what he says."

THE COWBOYS ARE expected to take this game quite seriously, considering the Bears blew them off the field in a 44-0 whitewash at Texas Stadium last November.

"What we had here today was a real old-fashioned whipping," Dallas head coach Tom Landry said after that contest. Despite the "whipping," the Cowboys went on to win the NFC East title with a 10-6 record, but lost to the Rams

Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

| No. | Name | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Age | Yr. | College |
|-----|------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 4 | Steve Fuller | QB | 6-4 | 195 | 29 | 8 | Clemson |
| 6 | Kevin Butler | K | 6-1 | 195 | 24 | 2 | Georgia |
| 8 | Maury Buford | P | 6-1 | 191 | 26 | 5 | Texas Tech |
| 9 | Jim McMahon | QB | 6-1 | 190 | 27 | 5 | BYU |
| 10 | John Teltschik | P | 6-1 | 207 | 22 | R | Texas |
| 11 | Jeff Miller | QB | 6-3 | 216 | 23 | R | Indiana St. |
| 18 | Mike Tomczak | QB | 6-1 | 195 | 24 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 20 | Thomas Sanders | RB | 5-11 | 203 | 24 | 2 | Texas A & M |
| 21 | Leslie Frazier | CB | 6-0 | 187 | 27 | 6 | Alcorn St. |
| 22 | Dave Duerson | S | 6-1 | 203 | 25 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 23 | Shaun Gayle | CB | 5-11 | 193 | 24 | 3 | Ohio St. |
| 24 | Vestee Jackson | DB | 6-0 | 186 | 22 | R | Washington |
| 26 | Matt Suhey | FB | 5-11 | 216 | 28 | 7 | Penn State |
| 27 | Mike Richardson | CB | 6-0 | 188 | 25 | 4 | Arizona St. |
| 29 | Dennis Gentry | RB | 5-8 | 181 | 27 | 5 | Baylor |
| 30 | Jeff Powell | RB | 5-10 | 170 | 23 | R | Tennessee |
| 31 | Ken Taylor | CB | 6-1 | 185 | 22 | 2 | Oregon State |
| 32 | Bruce Jones | SS | 6-1 | 195 | 27 | R | North Alabama |
| 32 | Calvin Murray | HB | 5-11 | 190 | 23 | 2 | Ohio State |
| 33 | Calvin Thomas | FB | 5-11 | 245 | 26 | 5 | Illinois |
| 34 | Walter Payton | RB | 5-10 | 202 | 31 | 12 | Jackson St. |
| 35 | Neal Anderson | RB | 5-11 | 210 | 21 | R | Florida |
| 36 | Maurice Douglass | DB | 5-11 | 200 | 22 | R | Kentucky |
| 37 | Barton Hundley | SS | 5-11 | 187 | 22 | R | Kansas State |
| 37 | Jeff McKinney | HB | 5-10 | 199 | 22 | R | W. Illinois |
| 38 | Vernon Williams | FB | 6-0 | 218 | 22 | R | Rutgers |
| 40 | Jack Cameron | DB | 6-0 | 180 | 24 | 2 | Winston-Salem |
| 43 | Egypt Allen | DB | 6-0 | 203 | 21 | R | TCU |
| 44 | Henry Jackson | LB | 6-0 | 225 | 23 | R | Angelo |
| 45 | Gary Fencik | S | 6-1 | 196 | 32 | 11 | Yale |
| 46 | Bruce Montella | DB | 5-11 | 190 | 22 | R | U. of Chicago |
| 47 | Ed Zeman | DB | 6-1 | 195 | 22 | R | Fl. Lewis |
| 48 | Reggie Phillips | DB | 5-10 | 170 | 25 | 2 | SMU |
| 49 | Riley Walton | TE | 6-3 | 220 | 23 | R | Tenn St. |
| 50 | Mike Singletary | LB | 6-0 | 228 | 27 | 6 | Baylor |
| 51 | Chris Jackson | C | 6-4 | 250 | 23 | 1 | SMU |
| 51 | Jim Morrissey | LB | 6-3 | 215 | 23 | 2 | Michigan State |
| 52 | Cliff Thrift | LB | 6-1 | 230 | 32 | 8 | E. Central OK |
| 53 | Dan Rains | LB | 6-1 | 229 | 32 | 3 | Cincinnati |
| 54 | Brian Cabral | LB | 6-1 | 227 | 32 | 7 | Colorado |
| 55 | Otis Wilson | LB | 6-2 | 232 | 28 | 7 | Louisville |
| 57 | Tom Thayer | G/C | 6-4 | 261 | 24 | 2 | Notre Dame |
| 58 | Wilber Marshall | LB | 6-1 | 225 | 24 | 3 | Florida |
| 59 | Ron Rivera | LB | 6-3 | 239 | 24 | 3 | California |
| 60 | Tom Andrews | C | 6-4 | 267 | 25 | 3 | Louisville |
| 60 | Steve Jacobson | DT | 6-3 | 245 | 23 | R | Abil. Christian |
| 62 | Mark Bortz | G | 6-6 | 269 | 25 | 4 | Iowa |
| 63 | Jay Hilgenberg | C | 6-3 | 258 | 27 | 6 | Iowa |
| 64 | Joe Spivak | G | 6-0 | 285 | 24 | 1 | Illinois St. |
| 64 | Gerald Taylor | LB | 6-2 | 235 | 22 | R | TCU |
| 67 | Mark Tagart | LB | 6-4 | 225 | 23 | R | Illinois |
| 68 | Paul Blair | OT | 6-4 | 275 | 22 | R | Oklahoma State |
| 69 | Marvin Ayers | DE | 6-5 | 255 | 22 | R | Grambling |
| 70 | Henry Waechter | DT | 6-5 | 275 | 27 | 5 | Nebraska |
| 71 | Andy Frederick | T | 6-6 | 265 | 31 | 10 | New Mexico |
| 72 | William Perry | DT | 6-2 | 308 | 23 | 2 | Clemson |
| 73 | Mike Hartenstine | DE | 6-3 | 254 | 32 | 12 | Penn State |
| 74 | Jim Covert | T | 6-4 | 271 | 26 | 4 | Pittsburgh |
| 75 | Mike Dwyer | DT | 6-2 | 265 | 23 | R | U. of Mass. |
| 75 | Stefan Humphries | G | 6-3 | 263 | 24 | 3 | Michigan |
| 76 | Steve McMichael | DT | 6-2 | 260 | 28 | 7 | Texas |
| 78 | Keith Van Horne | T | 6-6 | 280 | 28 | 6 | USC |
| 79 | Kurt Becker | G | 6-5 | 267 | 27 | 5 | Michigan |
| 80 | Tim Wrightman | TE | 6-3 | 237 | 26 | 2 | UCLA |
| 81 | David Williams | WR | 6-3 | 187 | 23 | R | Illinois |
| 82 | Ken Margerum | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 27 | 5 | Stanford |
| 83 | Willie Gault | WR | 6-1 | 183 | 25 | 4 | Tennessee |
| 84 | Brian Baschnagel | WR | 6-0 | 193 | 32 | 10 | Ohio State |
| 85 | Dennis McKinnon | WR | 6-1 | 185 | 24 | 4 | Florida St. |
| 86 | Brad Anderson | WR | 6-2 | 198 | 25 | 3 | Arizona |
| 87 | Emery Moorehead | TE | 6-2 | 220 | 32 | 10 | Colorado |
| 88 | Pat Dunsmore | TE | 6-3 | 237 | 26 | 3 | Drake |
| 89 | Keith Ortego | WR | 6-0 | 180 | 22 | 2 | McNeese State |
| 90 | Al Hams | LB | 6-5 | 253 | 29 | 6 | Arizona St. |
| 90 | Gordon Jones | WR | 6-0 | 190 | 28 | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| 92 | Lew Barnes | WR | 5-8 | 163 | 23 | R | Oregon |
| 93 | Mark Baker | DT | 6-5 | 267 | 23 | R | Angelo |
| 93 | Glen Kozlowski | WR | 6-1 | 193 | 23 | R | Brigham Young |
| 94 | Ken Knapczyk | WR | 5-11 | 190 | 23 | R | N. Iowa |
| 95 | Sylvester Byrd | TE | 6-3 | 236 | 23 | R | Kansas |
| 95 | Richard Dent | DE | 6-5 | 263 | 25 | 4 | Tenn State |
| 96 | Doug Donley | WR | 6-1 | 180 | 27 | 5 | Ohio State |
| 96 | Don Thorp | DT | 6-4 | 255 | 23 | 2 | Illinois |
| 97 | Tim Stracka | WR | 6-4 | 212 | 26 | 2 | Wisconsin |
| 98 | Tyrone Keys | DE | 6-7 | 267 | 26 | 4 | Miss. State |
| 98 | Don Kingdt | TE | 6-7 | 240 | 25 | 1 | Wis. La Crosse |
| 99 | Dan Hampton | DT | 6-5 | 267 | 28 | 8 | Arkansas |



LINEBACKER AL HARRIS (left) is back with the club after a one-year absence due to a contract squabble. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



HEAD COACH MIKE Ditka talks to reporters after practice. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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It's Bears vs. the World

PLATTEVILLE, WI — The first drops of training camp sweat were barely dry, and the Bears already had a villain on their dartboard. It was the NFL Players Association, which had the nerve to insist the Julian calendar took precedence over the Ditka calendar.

Coach Mike Ditka wanted his troops assembled July 15, or 19 days before their exhibition game. Never mind the NFL's collective bargaining agreement, which says veterans can't be required in training camp more than 15 days before the first exhibition. The CBA doesn't say anything about time off to see Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, does it? Ditka was trading his players' free afternoons for a week in London (which was already an extra week of training camp) for four extra days of two-a-days at Platteville.

By
Kevin
Lamb



WHEN MATT SUHEY and Mike Richardson didn't show up on time — Suhey because of a misunderstanding over his new contract and Richardson because of a misunderstanding over the words "July 15" — Ditka demoted them to second-string. The NFLPA emoted that it is improper to punish a player for breaking a coach's rule that breaks a league rule. It planned to file a grievance on the players' behalf.

Ditka didn't even try to look horrified, although he stifled his snickers. "I'm flattered," he said. "It's one of the big days in my life." Seriously, folks, Ditka said the union would never run the Bears, or the league, for that matter. "They have enough trouble running their own organization."

Suhey was flattered too. It was nice to see the union sticking up for players, he said. But between the lines, it sounded as if even Suhey would have preferred the union not stick its nose into the Bears' problems.

"HE HAS TO DO what he thinks is best for the team," Suhey said. "Hopefully, the best players will play." Player rep Mike Singletary didn't object, either, calling it special circumstances.

So what we had here was a coach, after requiring extra work from his players, rallying them to circle the wagons against the organization that was trying to protect them. Ditka always has been uncanny in his ability to focus his team's attention on a common enemy, real or imagined, to motivate them to a fever pitch. But this was different. This was not the Packers or the 49ers, or even ABC-TV or Pete Rozelle. This was the players' own union.

This was a good sign that Bear players are not looking for loopholes in which to rest their 1985 laurels. This was a good sign that their tumultuous off-season will do more good than harm, bring them together rather than tear them apart. Like sailboats, the Bears seem less effective in peaceful waters.

"I HAVE THE SAME feeling," Ditka said before camp opened. "But we'll see."

It was a busy off-season, filled with highlights Bear management did not use in its ticket-sales pitch. From the two starters lost for the year to the undue frugality in parceling out Super Bowl spoils, it was an off-season best forgotten. It raised a lot of questions to be answered in training camp.

Did any of the players go soft from their life in the fast lane of a Super Bowl champ? Did they have time to read their playbooks in between reading TV pitches for fast food and faster motorcycles?

THE EARLY RETURNS were promising. The first week of camp was conducted in 90°-plus heat. The practice field



RUNNING BACK WALTER Payton catches a pass from the Fridge. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

felt like the opening of a huge dryer vent. But players were passing muster, not passing out. On defense, where they had an entirely new playbook, they were not running into each other.

Who will replace wide receiver Dennis McKinnon and cornerback Leslie Frazier, whose knee surgeons told them to take 1986 off? Will the Bears miss them?

Reggie Phillips could step in for Frazier without quarterbacks noticing. He was a promising second-round draft choice a year ago, and he came to his second camp brimming with confidence, which is almost as important as quick feet for a corner. But the Bears weren't brimming with cornerbacks. After Phillips and Richardson, whose demotion didn't figure to last long, their only veterans were Shaun Gayle and Ken Taylor, both of whom seem more suited to play safety. Vestee Jackson was a second-round rookie, but he was flirting seriously with the USFL.

Continued Next Page

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Bears vs. World

Continued From Page 11

AT WIDE RECEIVER, the prospect was both more grave and more encouraging. McKinnon was valuable to the Bears in the first half of last season. He was their leading touchdown-scorer, he was their best blocker at wide receiver and his ability at catching passes between the hash marks made defenses give his teammates more room on the sidelines. But he wasn't used much in the second half, as McKinnon himself angrily pointed out, and the Bears still won. Besides, they had quantity in the wings at wide receiver, and perhaps quality.

Ken Margerum filled McKinnon's place on the depth chart. He has started before. He seemed well-recovered from 1984 knee surgery. But for going over the middle, offensive coordinator Ed Hughes mentioned he liked what he saw in Keith Ortego, almost exclusively a punt returner as a rookie last year; and Gordon Jones, a veteran from the Bucs and Raiders. Then there were third-year rookie David Williams, former Cowboy Doug Donley and even Brian Baschnagel, who seems to have been written off but has crashed through the handwriting on the wall before.

Will Neal Anderson ever sign?

PROBABLY. FIRST-ROUND signings have never been slower. Teams have decided not to offer the money they paid the last three years, and agents are reluctant to tip over the first domino of a downward salary spiral. When Anderson does sign, he'll while away the time waiting for Walter Payton to step aside by joining the fray at wide receiver. As Hughes put it, going over the middle is easier than going over the line.

Can William Perry and Jim McMahon get down to their prescribed weights merely by leaving their wallets in their lockers? If they can't, will it matter?

Perry showed up at 325 pounds, 25 over his limit. For him, weight matters only as it relates to endurance. The question that remains is whether Perry will push himself to get into more than adequate shape, whether he'll become a great defensive lineman or a one-time national phenomenon. McMahon's weight never has seemed to have a bearing on his play. But Ditka wants him setting an example. There's a great temptation for a defending champion to coast, which is why there have been so few

repeating champions. A team needs leaders to prod it. Ditka knows he can count on Payton and Mike Singletary, "but I'm also thinking of people like Dan Hampton and Jim," he says. "They are leaders. They've provided leadership. I just don't want it to be behind the scenes anymore. I want them to be the leaders everybody's going to look up to and say, 'Hey, we're going to do it with these people.'"

HOW LONG WILL IT be before the three new defensive coaches and one new offensive coach no longer seem like new coaches? On defense, will the players start grumbling about how much better the system was last year if things don't go so well right away? Or will Vince Tobin's way be even better, as Ditka insists?

The first scrimmage in camp was a good vote for the new defense, which stuffed the old offense to the point where Ditka was beside himself with rage. It won't be all that much different anyway. It will still be aggressive and

multiple, and it looks like it will still have four linemen.

Will the Bears' week in London turn out to be an attraction or a distraction? Which will be more dangerous? Intersquad practices with the Cowboys or international unrest?

By December, London probably will be a faint memory that had little to do with the season's outcome. So will the July depth chart that had Suhey and Richardson second-string, seven weeks before the first game. The other questions are more significant, but they concern Ditka more collectively than individually. He's beginning his fifth year as Bear coach, the only person besides George Halas to do that, and he has learned there's only one question that really matters.

Will the Bears be the first team to win consecutive Super Bowls in seven years?

That's the only reason the other questions matter.

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ALL THIS WAS achieved against the backdrop of a tremendously demanding academic schedule at one of the most renowned universities in the world. But the revered traditions and intellects he came into daily contact with — to say nothing of his own performance — have not phased him in the least.

"It's hard for me to be awed by anything or anybody. That's not the kind of person I am," he points out.

"I mean, I can respect people — and I do have a great deal of respect for the people I met at the U of C and for the University of Chicago itself — but it's just that I've never been one to be awed. The university is impressive and so are the people I came into contact with, but. . .

"IN OUR CLASSES we learned about discoveries made

By
Michael
Haggerty



ROOKIE DEFENSIVE BACK Bruce Montella (48) tries to chase down fellow rookie Jeff Powell. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

by various famous scientists," he goes on. "And these major break-throughs can be basic things that the scientists just stumbled upon.

"So many things can be like that," Montella parallels. "Somebody just stumbles upon something and then he becomes famous. Although I do respect him and the fact that he was a hard worker and was able to use his intellect. I see the big side of it, but a lot of times it's just kinda being at the right place at the right time.

"When I make appraisals of people, I look to see how hard they work, how much effort they put into it — stuff like that. I don't think of people being superior just because they're working with things that are intellectual."

MONTELLA WORKED HARD at Thornton-Fractional High School. His grades were extremely good, but he was so plagued by injuries as a senior quarterback that, when he did play, it was as a running back.

He was offered zero football scholarships, so when it came time to select a college he did so on the basis of the best academics with the possibility of football, instead of the other way around. He didn't want to make a college team as a walk-on, get injured again and then be football-less at a second-rate school academically.

"I wanted to keep my options open," reflects the ever-pragmatic Montella.

THAT SAME APPROACH marked his arriving at the decision of what would finally be his degree major, biological sciences. "When I was a freshman I wasn't specifically interested in biology, but in science generally," he recalls.

"I didn't really have any specific goals in mind. It wasn't until my third year that I decided on biology. One of the options I wanted to keep open was going to medical school."

That particular option has been exercised, for he has been accepted by the U of C's vaunted Pritzker School of Medicine. Gee, Joe, that's quite a prestigious medical school, isn't it?

"**WELL,**" HE allows, "that's what people say."

But first there's the matter of seeing whether or not he can nail down a spot on the roster of the Super Bowl champion Bears. Isn't it exciting to have at least signed a pro football contract?

"Oh, I guess it is," he murmurs. "But I guess the real kick would be if I made the team. That'd be the real kick. I played Division III and there's a lot of difference in competition — going from there all the way up to the pros."

Montella is also undergoing a position change, from tailback to defensive back. "Those are two big question marks for me as a player," he says. "If those are answered right, then I guess I'll be more excited. And if they're answered in the negative, then all this just won't be that big a deal. I think of the jury as being out on whether I'll make it with the Bears or not. We'll just have to wait and see."

HE'S ALREADY HAD an impact on one situation that's starting to be overcome. When he began at the U of C

he noticed that Maroon football players were dismissed as being less than equal to the so-called "regular" students, despite the absence of athletic scholarships.

Montella saw the prejudice "my first and second year, for sure. My third year, not so much. My fourth year, not much at all," he remembers. "I can't really remember any direct confrontations my first two seasons. It was pretty much unspoken.

"I think that my getting accepted to the university's medical school kinda, you know, put a quiet to a lot of that 'dumb jock' stuff."

BUT NOW HE'S ON to a new challenge. Gone are the newspaper headlines that proclaimed 'Montella is Medicine for U of C.' Gone are the first team Division Three All-American honors, the Academic All-American laurels.

Gone are the comparisons to the U of C's legendary Jay Berwanger, the premier winner of the Heisman Award.

Gone is the notoriety of being chosen by *Sports Illustrated* magazine as its "Offensive Back of the Week" following a 305-yard, two-touchdown foray against Knox College. Gone is the immediacy of being selected U of C team MVP twice.

Instead he doggedly pursues football glory in the genuine big time — the National Football League. But if he doesn't make it, not to worry. There's always medical school, awaiting another career in which to distinguish himself.

Bruce Montella always made sure he's had a way of keeping his options open.

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Mention the Bears

Offense Finally Posts Win In Scrimmage

By Terry Bannon

PLATTEVILLE, WI — Well, what do you know? Buddy Ryan leaves town and the Bears' offense finally wins an intrasquad scrimmage.

"The final score doesn't mean anything," coach Mike Ditka said after the offense prevailed, 15-7, at Pioneer Stadium on a sultry Saturday afternoon.

DEFENSES USUALLY control these early-season intermural matches. But Ditka didn't allow the defense to blitz or use any of the multiple sets it had been practicing under new defensive coordinator Vince Tobin for the previous 10 days.

"They played a vanilla defense," Ditka said after the defense held the offense without a touchdown during the 61-play session. "They played a basic 4-3 and 3-4. A linebacker could blitz out of the 3-4, but that's nothing. We didn't let them do what they do best."

The offense's only conventional score came on a pair of 27-yard field goals by Kevin Butler, who has no competition for his job in this camp.

BUT SCRIMMAGES ARE not intended to produce winners and losers. They are primarily designed to give coaches a chance to see what players can do in real competition. "I wanted to see the individual matchups," Ditka said in explaining why he limited Tobin's defense.

And what he saw generally pleased him. It's early, but this is a defense that looks like it plans to lead the NFL for the third straight year.

Richard Dent, the MVP of Super Bowl XX, celebrated his new contract by breaking up a screen pass — he almost intercepted it — and recording two tackles. William "The Refrigerator" Perry had four tackles. "We can't block Perry and we can't block Dent," Ditka said.

THERE WERE ALSO some encouraging signs in the secondary, which expects to play the season without cornerback Leslie Frazier (knee surgery). Reserve safety Shaun Gayle continued to show that he's a valuable performer, making four unassisted tackles. And after only three days of practice, rookie second-round draft choice Vestee Jackson continued to show he will press second-year man Reggie Phillips for the starting right cornerback job.

Jackson made the day's only interception. It was wiped out by a defensive holding penalty, but the pickoff and 35-yard return will stick in Ditka's mind.

"You don't have to look at him much to know he's a player," Ditka said. "He's going to be on the field this year."

PERRY, STEVE McMICHAEL and Mike Hartenstine, who started for the injured Dan Hampton, each had a quarterback sack. Perry and reserve lineman Henry Waechter each had four tackles. Rookie free agent linebacker Gearld Taylor from Texas Christian led all tackles with five.

The newcomer who made the best impression was defensive tackle Don Thorp. The former University of Illinois All-American sat out last season after being cut by New Orleans. He was the Saints' sixth-round draft choice in 1984.

"He made a couple of good plays," coach Mike Ditka said. "He's looked good for two weeks. He's a better player than we thought he was and a better player than anybody thought he was."

THORP'S FIRST BIG play was stopping running back Thomas Sanders in a fourth-and-inches situation. "I stuck him," Thorp said. "I just submarined the guard, he was there, and I said, 'Thank you.'"

Then, two plays before the end of the scrimmage, he dropped Sanders for a five-yard loss.

"I had a good time out there," Thorp said. "I made some plays and that's good. Put me in there when you need a big play, and I'll make it."

THE BEARS DIDN'T draft a defensive lineman and are using Al Harris at linebacker. So Thorp may now have a legitimate shot at making the team.

"I've got my 40-yard dash time down to 4.9 and my weight up to a solid 270," Thorp said. "I'm in the best shape of my life."

One of the few aspects of the scrimmage that disappointed Ditka was the offensive line. "Our pass blocking wasn't good, but that's the last thing to come," Ditka said.

THE OFFENSE MOUNTED two sustained drives without quarterback Jim McMahon. McMahon re-injured a pulled groin muscle three days earlier and Ditka didn't want to risk further injury.

The crowd of 9,327 got an unexpected treat when Walter Payton appeared in the backfield. He usually does not risk injury in intrasquad affairs, but the team had only four other healthy running backs. "They needed me," the NFL's all-time leading rusher said. "I couldn't have slept well if I hadn't helped out."

Payton carried twice for 13 yards. Matt Suhey was held out under doctor's orders — he can't participate in contact work until Aug. 1.

SANDERS SHOWED THE instinctive moves that won him a roster spot last year and led all rushers with 62 yards on 15 carries. A ninth-round pick last year, Sanders will have to fight for a spot on the roster, presuming first-round Neal Anderson signs.

"Sanders is a slashing kind of runner," Ditka says. "He does some good things."

Dennis Gentry, the No. 2 halfback, carried 10 times for 27 yards. Calvin Thomas, the No. 2 fullback, carried five times for 42 yards. "I'd like to see him a little lighter," Ditka said of Thomas, who weighs 245 pounds. "He did a good job. The running backs were good and the quarterbacks were good," Ditka said.

STEVE FULLER TOOK the first turn at quarterback and completed 3 of 6 for 49 yards. He teamed up with split end Willie Gault for a 37-yard completion, the day's longest gain. Mike Tomczak, who seems secure in his role as the No. 3 quarterback, completed 3 of 7 for 37 yards. Rookie free agent Jeff Miller from Indiana State was 1 of 3 for 15 yards.

Ditka hoped to escape without any injuries, but the Bears didn't. Brian Cabral, the backup middle linebacker, dislocated his left shoulder. And Marvin Ayers, a rookie free agent defensive end from Grambling, sprained an ankle.

But as the Bears departed for London Sunday night, Ditka was pleased with the first two weeks of training camp. "I'm happy," he said. "We're going to London, see the Queen, come home and play football."



SIXTH-ROUND DRAFT choice Jeff Powell has lined up as both a wide receiver and a running back during training camp. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Scrimmage Statistics

TEAM STATISTICS

| | Defense | Offense |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| First Downs | — | 15 |
| Rushing | — | 11 |
| Passing | — | 3 |
| Penalty | — | 1 |
| Rushing Attempts | — | 45 |
| Yards Rushing | — | 161 |
| Tackles-Yards Lost Rushing | — | -10 |
| Net Yards Rushing | — | 151 |
| Net Yards Passing | — | 80 |
| Passes Attempted | — | 16 |
| Passes Completed | — | 7 |
| Had Intercepted | — | 0 |
| Total Offensive Plays | — | 63 |
| Total Net Yards | — | 231 |
| Average Gain Per Play | — | — |
| Return Yards | — | 68 |
| Fumbles: Number-Lost | — | 3-3 |
| Penalties: Number-Yards | 2-17 | 1-5 |
| Interceptions: Number-Yards | — | — |
| Number of Punts-Yards | — | — |
| Average Per Punt | — | — |

| Offense | | | | | | |
|---------|------|------|------|-----|----|------|
| RUSHING | Att. | Gain | Lost | Net | TD | Long |
| Gentry | 10 | 27 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 6 |
| Thomas | 5 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 14 |
| Sanders | 15 | 62 | 10 | 52 | 0 | 18 |
| Jones | 5 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 5 |
| Tomczak | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Payton | 2 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 8 |
| Fuller | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| PASSING | Att. | Comp. | Int. | Yds. | TD | Long | Sacks |
|---------|------|-------|------|------|----|------|-------|
| Fuller | 6 | 3 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 37 | 2-15 |
| Tomczak | 7 | 3 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 21 | 1-6 |
| Miller | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | — |

| PASS RECEIVING | No. | Yds. | TD | Long |
|----------------|-----|------|----|------|
| Moorehead | 1 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Gentry | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Dunsmore | 1 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Gault | 1 | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| Stracka | 2 | 25 | 0 | 21 |
| Thomas | 1 | 12 | 0 | 12 |

| PUNTING | No. | Yds. | Avg. | Long |
|-----------|-----|------|------|------|
| Buford | 1 | 41 | 41.0 | 41 |
| Telfschik | 1 | 50 | 50.0 | 50 |

| FIELD GOALS | Att. | Made | Long |
|-------------|------|------|------|
| Butler | 2 | 2 | 28 |

| ALL RETURNS | Punts | | | Kickoffs | | |
|----------------|-------|------|----|----------|------|----|
| | No. | Yds. | LP | No. | Yds. | LP |
| Barnes | 1 | 16 | 16 | 1 | 20 | 20 |
| Williams | 1 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 25 | 25 |

NCAA DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

| | T | A | Ttl. | FR | Int. | PD | SK |
|-------------|---|---|------|----|------|----|-------|
| Duerson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gayle | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Jackson V. | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taylor | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jones | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Douglass | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameron | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Allen | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Jackson H. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fencik | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Phillips | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Singletary | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morrissey | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rains | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cabral | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wilson | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rivera | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jacobson | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taylor G. | 5 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Waechter | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Perry | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1(-7) |
| Hartenstine | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1(-8) |
| Dwyer | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McMichael | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1(-6) |
| Harris | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dent | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Thorpe | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



WALTER PAYTON PUTS on a punting display for some of his teammates. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Maness Fails Drug Test At Mini-Camp

By BEAR REPORT Staff

Wide receiver James Maness had already been given a stern warning by the Bears: one more positive test for cocaine, and his career with the Chicago club would be history.

A day before the May mini-camp opened at the Bears' Lake Forest facility, Maness told reporters he had learned a hard lesson by doing drugs last season, and had finally kicked the cocaine habit. His addiction to drugs had cost him a chance to play in the Super Bowl, the \$64,000 all of his teammates received for winning the Super Bowl, and a Super Bowl ring.

IT APPEARED MANESS was on his way to reinstatement with the club as he went through the workouts of the mini-camp. But a day before the camp ended, the club announced Maness had tested positive for cocaine and would be waived immediately.

Maness, a 1985 second-round draft choice out of Texas

Christian, was suspended without pay with two games left last season, while on injured reserve, because he failed to go along with the Bears' rehabilitation program.

AFTER HE WAS placed on injured reserve Nov. 9 with a hamstring pull, Maness admitted to drug use which started in September. He entered the first phase of the Bears' program, which was outpatient drug counseling with pay. According to the Bears, Maness then dropped out of the program and was suspended without pay after testing positive for cocaine.

Maness entered a drug rehabilitation program at the club's expense before returning to Texas after the Super Bowl. In April, he voluntarily entered a drug rehab program at his own expense in Denton, TX for 28 days. After Bears' officials met with Maness and a counselor, they invited him to the mini-camp with an understanding that one more positive test would result in his release.

Other Mini-Camp Notes

•New defensive coordinator Vince Tobin got rave reviews from the players at the mini-camp.

"THE PLAYBOOK IS very well organized," said safety Gary Fencik.

"He tells you why to do it," added cornerback Reggie Phillips. "Not because the coach says to do it. You know the reason. That makes it easier to understand. We're doing about as much shifting as we would have been doing under Buddy's system. But he doesn't just say what to do, he says how to do it and why you do it that way. If you skip the why, you don't really grasp the whole thing."

Phillips moved into the starting lineup during mini-camp, replacing incumbent Leslie Frazier (who is out for the season due to knee surgery). Tyrone Keys replaced Richard Dent at right end. Dent did not attend the camp due to his contract situation.

•As usual, William "Refrigerator" Perry's weight was

a big issue at the mini-camp. The Fridge weighed in at 330 pounds, 30 pounds over his prescribed limit of 300.

"I DON'T LIKE it," said Ditka. "I wanted Perry where he was at the end of last season and then down under 300. We'll talk about what's important, and if it's not football, maybe we ought to do something else."

In some formations during the mini-camp, Perry played inside linebacker.

"It gives us the flexibility to go back and forth from a 4-3 to a 3-4 without substitution," said Vince Tobin. "That gives you a tremendous advantage."

•Among the players who impressed Ditka the most during the mini-camp were free agent wide receiver Gordon Jones, and rookies Vestee Jackson, Maurice Douglass, Barton Hundley, Bruce Jones, David Williams and Lew Barnes.

"You hate to get too excited talking, but I'm positive about what I've seen," said Ditka.



QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON limbers up during a mini-camp practice. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



JAMES MANESS WAS waived during the mini-camp after testing positive for cocaine. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



NEW DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR Vince Tobin surveys his troops. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Pre-Season Schedule

Saturday, August 2

Hall of Fame Game at Canton, Ohio
(ABC-TV) 2:30 p.m.

New England vs. St. Louis

Sunday, August 3

BEARS vs. Dallas at Wembley Stadium 6 p.m.

London, England (NBC-TV)

Tuesday, August 5

Houston at Los Angeles Rams 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 6

New York Giants at Atlanta 7 p.m.

Friday, August 8

Indianapolis at Seattle 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia at Detroit 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 9

Buffalo at Cleveland 7:30 p.m.

BEARS at Pittsburgh 7 p.m.

Cincinnati at Kansas City 7:30 p.m.

Dallas at San Diego 6 p.m.

Miami at Minnesota 7 p.m.

New Orleans at Denver 7 p.m.

N.Y. Jets vs. Green Bay at Madison, Wis. 1 p.m.

St. Louis at Tampa Bay 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 10

L.A. Raiders at San Francisco (CBS-TV) Noon

Washington at New England 7 p.m.

Friday, August 15

Cleveland at Miami (ABC-TV) 8 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Washington 8 p.m.

Seattle at Detroit 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 16

Atlanta at Tampa Bay 7 p.m.

Buffalo at Houston 8 p.m.

Cincinnati at New York Jets 8 p.m.

Dallas at Los Angeles Raiders (NBC-TV) 6 p.m.

Denver at Minnesota 7 p.m.

Indianapolis at BEARS 6 p.m.

Kansas City at St. Louis 7 p.m.

New England at New Orleans 7 p.m.

N.Y. Giants vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at San Diego 6 p.m.

Monday, August 18

San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams 7 p.m.

Friday, August 22

Minnesota at Seattle 7:30 p.m.

New England at Los Angeles Raiders 7 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Dallas (ABC-TV) 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 23

Buffalo at Kansas City 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland at Atlanta 8 p.m.

Detroit at Indianapolis 7:30 p.m.

Green Bay at Cincinnati 7 p.m.

Miami at Philadelphia 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Houston 8 p.m.

New York Jets at New York Giants 8 p.m.

St. Louis at BEARS (CBS-TV) 8 p.m.

San Diego at Los Angeles Rams 7 p.m.

San Francisco at Denver 7 p.m.

Washington at Tampa Bay 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 28

Cleveland at Los Angeles Raiders 7 p.m.

New York Jets at Philadelphia 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 29

Atlanta at Washington 8 p.m.

Detroit at Cincinnati 8 p.m.

Los Angeles Rams at Denver (NBC-TV) 6 p.m.

St. Louis at San Diego 7 p.m.

Seattle at San Francisco 6 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Miami 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 30

BEARS vs. Buffalo at South Bend, Ind. 1:30 p.m.

Houston at Dallas (CBS-TV) 8 p.m.

Kansas City at New Orleans 7 p.m.

Minnesota at Indianapolis 7:30 p.m.

New England at Green Bay 7 p.m.

Pittsburgh at New York Giants 8 p.m.

Cowboys

Continued From Page 9

in the opening round of the playoffs. That 20-0 setback at Anaheim has prompted many experts to predict doom for Dallas this year. Many polls have them ranked to finish third or fourth in their division.

"The chemistry that enabled us to come back from some embarrassing defeats and win the East last year is the thing we have to build on this year," says Landry.

AT LEAST HE DOESN'T have a quarterback controversy to deal with in this year's camp. Gary Hogeboom has been traded to the Colts and that leaves Danny White as the starter.

"I think Danny White will continue to play well for us," says Landry. "He's a winner, always has been. Last year he showed great courage playing with so many injuries."

In order to breathe new life into the Cowboys, the club hired former San Francisco 49ers' assistant Paul Hackett as a pass offense coordinator. Hackett may even call plays on the sidelines this year.

"I'M VERY FLEXIBLE," Landry said. "All I'm interested in is the success of our team. Paul is bringing in new

ideas and I can be swayed from some I've had. If we can improve our offense 10 percent, then we may win a playoff game, instead of losing it. We're trying to get back to the top."

Landry is hoping to get a big boost in the offense from the club's top two draft picks, WR Mike Sherrard (UCLA) and RB Darryl Clark (Arizona State).

On defense, Landry is counting on two-year defensive veteran Kevin Brooks, the team's top draft pick out of Michigan in 1985, to play a key role this year.

"IF BROOKS IS A football player, he's got to make his move this year either at end or at tackle, although it will probably be at tackle," Landry says. Of course, the coach also expects another great season out of perennial All Pro DT Randy White.

"Randy is the premier defensive tackle in the business," said Landry. "He's got such great intensity and competitiveness. We've never had a player, and I've never seen a player, other than (Ernie) Stautner, who could match Randy's intensity from game to game."

One of the more interesting training camp battles for the Cowboys this summer is at placekicker. Incumbent Rafael Septien is being challenged by a superior crop of youngsters which includes Max Zendejas (Arizona), and Rich Spangler (Ohio State).

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Bears Let Payton Down

Dear Doug,

For the last 11 years, I've followed the progress of the Chicago Bears. Each of those years, each game, there was always a constant. One thing that, no matter how bad the Bears played, the Chicago fans could hold their heads up and be proud of. That one constant was Walter Payton. It's so ironic that millions of fans have fallen in love with Walter, while the Bears have let him down. The Bears may have won the Super Bowl last January, but they didn't win any respect.

When the interviews and final analysis of the game had been wrapped up, I just sat there, waiting for something else. I didn't feel happy that the Bears had won, or overjoyed that Chicago finally had a champion after 23 years, I felt empty. What I had been witness to was a humiliation, not a humiliation of the New England Patriots, but a humiliation of Walter Payton. It wasn't something that stood out from the rest of the action, in fact, most people watching the game probably didn't even see it. But speaking as a Payton fan of 11 years, it seemed to dominate the game. Payton has been the heart and soul of this Bears team ever since he reported to camp back in 1975. Over those 11 years, the Bears called on him often to lift their pathetic team out of hopeless situations. Payton never complained about the losing seasons or untalented frontlines. He never complained about his salary or held out from camp like many of today's so-called "great" backs have done over the years. Walter simply did his best every Sunday and praised his teammates every Monday. It should be said that he is the ideal company player. Everything the Chicago franchise has wanted of him, Walter has accomplished.

Last January, Chicago found themselves in the perfect setting to finally let Payton have his moment. But the Bears chose to use him as a decoy. Even after they were ahead by a secure score, they didn't try to create something for Walter. When he got the ball, which was rare, the only plays the Bears' mastermind coaching staff could think of were simple dive plays. There

were countless opportunities for Payton to score, but he was passed over for other players. Guys like Jim McMahon, who the phrase "no class" was made for, and William Perry were given the ball at the goal line. Perry may be the most unforgivable, to think that Ditka would let an overweight defensive lineman score in place of his superstar running back is unforgivable. And Ditka tries to explain this by saying that they didn't have any plays set up for Payton by the goal line. Right Mike!

I think the Bears organization and the Chicago fans owe a lot to Walter Payton. As long as Walter is playing for the Bears, I'll continue to support them, but as soon as Payton retires, my support for the Bears retires as well.

Tim Gill
Pittsburg, KS

Dent Proves His Worth

Dear Doug,

I want to congratulate the Chicago Bears on a great season and 'blow out' Super Bowl XX victory. It was a dream come true.

I have been a Bear fan for almost 15 years and it really hurts me to see how tight they are with their money. I agree with the decision on Todd Bell and Al Harris. Neither has proven themselves over the years. However, I feel that Richard "The Lion Heart" Dent has proven himself. Over the past two years, he has led the NFC in sacks and he is this year's Super Bowl XX MVP.

Look what they are paying Randy White and Fred Dean. Neither led the NFC in sacks for two years in a row or has been a Super Bowl MVP. What does Dent have to do to get a raise? Loosen the money belt and contribute to another Super Champ.

Why not put bonus clauses and incentives in his contract? Certainly leading the NFL in sacks and making the Pro Bowl should be worth some kind of bonus.

Bob Misanik
Sparks, NV

Editor's Note: The Bears offered Dent a variety of bonuses and incentive clauses. The problem was Dent wanted most of the money in base salary.

Organization Shows

Dear Editor:

After observing the NFL draft and noting how the Bears fared, I'm even more convinced than ever that the planners in the Bear organization have to be as good and organized as anyone in pro football. Drafting last is designed to bring the top teams down, as well as the bottom teams up. Yet good organizations seem to overcome the system.

Sometime back I wrote a letter to the BEAR REPORT indicating I believed the greatest needs in new players, as gained through the draft, were defensive backs, wide receivers, one more quarterback (which I now rescind) and overall improvement in special teams and team speed. As I look at the 1986 Bear draftees, this is exactly what has been done.

I firmly believe Neal Anderson will be a wonderful addition to the offense. Now Dennis Gentry can go to wide receiver and be very productive. I have come to have a lot of faith in the Bears'

number one draft choices.

Vestee Jackson and the other three defensive backs drafted should fill in some voids brought on by injuries, holdouts and aging. I look for a lot of improvement on pass defense in the secondary.

Special team speed, coverage, and returns should be a lot better in 1986. This draft contains several very speedy runners, and some people who like to hit downfield.

The braintrust of the Bears see the needs, and then go about filling those needs. This bodes well for Bear fans! And the Bear future.

Sincerely
Robert Logan
Burlington, IA

Filling A Void

Dear Doug:

Enclosed you will find payment for my first subscription to BEAR REPORT. As a subscriber to PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY for 14 straight years, thank God you were there last year to pick up the slack after P.F.W. folded last summer. Maybe you could add two more pages and have complete NFC and AFC stats like P.F.W. used to. Other than that, I think the BEAR REPORT is just great.

Gregg M. Winters
Chicago, IL

Continued Next Page

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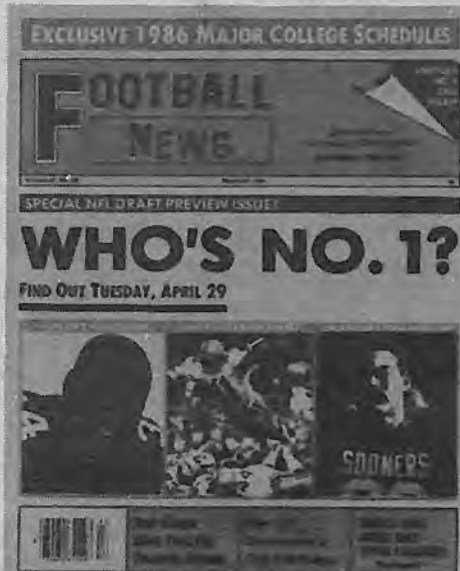


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More Letters

Continued From Page 18

Surprising Letters

Dear Editor,

I received your latest issue and was surprised by two letters that appeared in your editorial page. If I may, I would like to respond to them.

Mr. Les Freeman stands on a soapbox and cries about the Bears playing "dirty football" during the Super Bowl. I really can't understand this Milquetoast attitude of his. How many times has Jim McMahon been cheap-shot? Or how about when practically the entire Patriot defense gang-tackled William Perry on his option pass-play during the Super Bowl? And, what are you basing this "dirty football" on, anyway? If you really have been a football fan for 20 years, you must remember the days of the legal headslap and a defender legally being able to bump and run a receiver all the way down the field. In conclusion, the Bears earned their Super Bowl victory the old-fashioned way — they earned it!

Mr. Richard C. Zimmerman should remember that even though the "46" defense is in vogue now, so was the 1-back offense in 1983 when the Redskins used it to win Super Bowl XVIII. Who uses the 1-back now? The Bucs, Falcons & Bills. The three of them had a combined win-loss record of 8-40 in 1985. The same

thing will eventually happen to the "46". Football trends come and go swiftly, and from what's been happening at the Eagles camp so far, I think the Bears are better off without Buddy Ryan.

Sincerely,
Ramon Carcases
Miami, FL

Judgment Calls

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in regards to the guy who says he's a Bear fan and wrote the letter about the cheap shots the Bears put on the Patriots. Well, I have but one thing to say to you, it's all judgment calls.

Do you think Jim McMahon never got hit with a cheap shot in the game (Super Bowl). If you don't, you've got rocks in your head pal.

How about the cheap shot that 5 or 6 of their defense put on Perry when he was trying to throw the ball in the first quarter, or in the third and fourth quarters when a defender was holding Margerum down by the neck, or when McKinnon got hit directly in the face by Lippett? That one was on the replay, or didn't you watch the whole game?

Football is an aggressive sport and that causes cheap shots as you say, all the teams do it, so quit picking on the Bears for it.

If you are a Bear fan, the rest of us real Bear fans don't need you.

I've got that game on tape and have watched it numerous times,

and we didn't play any different than they did, as far as cheap shots go.

So you think they're a class team and the champions. Well I got news for you champ. If half their team wasn't snorting cocaine, we would still kick their butts.

It's just too bad that a better team didn't play us because we could have beat anyone on that great day.

They lost the game and the fight.

Jeff Stevens,
Colona, IL

Looking For Tapes

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on a fine season. This past year has been a dream come true for all of us long-time suffering Bear fans.

The reason for this letter is not only to congratulate you on 1985, it is also a request. I am hoping that one of your readers has copies of the Bears games of this past season (especially vs. Dallas and the playoff games). If one of your readers would be willing to make copies of these games for me I would be willing to pay postage, send the tapes (VHS), and throw in a University of Texas baseball cap.

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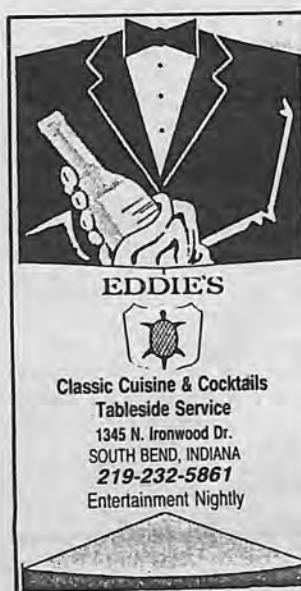
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